Import of Second Hand Vehicles

1086. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow the import of second-hand vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Second-hand vehicles are classified under Exim Code Nos. 87.03 and 87.04 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items. Presently import of these items is restricted. In view of India's International Commitments, all quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payments reasons are required to be removed by 1.4.2001. However, even after removal of quantitative restrictions, the imports will still be subject to applicable tariffs, technical standards and environmental and safety norms.

Setting up of a special cell in PMO

1087. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any demand from the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the setting up of a special cell in the P.M.O. to remove infrastructural glitches and help accelerate foreign direct investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No specific demand has been received from the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) to set up a special cell in PMO.

(b) Does not arise.

Threat to Trade Globalization

1088. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late the globalisation of trade is under threats and the rich countries are protesting it vehemently and they managed to

wreck the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting in Seattle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government, so far, or proposed to be taken to put the economy of the country on the rails if such countries do not participate in the process of development and to keep pace with the world economy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The principal reason for the breakdown of negotiations at the Seattle Ministerial conference of WTO was due to a wide differences on major issues between member countries. The threat perception from globalization of trade was mainly the perception of anti WTO groups of Non Government Organizations (NGOs), who also had delayed the inaugural session of the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO at Seattle on 30th November, 1999.

(c) On the one hand, Indian Government is autonomously continuing with its economic reforms, including reforms in trade policy. On the other hand, in the WTO, India and the developing countries are vigorously articulating that the WTO, to progress with its work, should not have non-trade issues in its agenda and must take on board the concerns of developing countries with regard to implementation of existing WTO agreements. It has also been conveyed that the mandated negotiations and mandated reviews must also proceed as scheduled in the WTO agreements.

Export of Onion

1089. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has requested Government to permit it to export certain varieties of onion through the State owned corporations/federations in order to mitigate the problems faced by the farmers on account of the glut in the market; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests have been received from time to time from the Government of Karnataka for permission to export Bangalore Rose as also other varieties of